

ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a separating apparatus having a simple configuration, capable of time division separating time division multiplexed signal light directly and stably. To this end, the present invention is such that in an apparatus for separating signal light included in the time division multiplexed signal light on a time axis, by guiding $N \times B$ b/s time division multiplexed signal light obtained by time division multiplexing B b/s signal light at N multiplexing degrees to serially connected first and second optical gate sections, the first optical gate section comprises; an MZ optical modulator in which an optical transmission characteristic thereof with respect to a drive voltage is periodically changed, and a drive circuit that supplies to the MZ optical modulator a drive signal having a repetition frequency equal to a bit rate of the signal light, and having the voltage magnitude corresponding to a voltage difference of an $n/2$ period in the periodic optical transmission characteristic of the MZ optical modulator.